

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12
/090 W

-----023112 141541Z /11

O R 141519Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2538

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

/AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM 2069

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C/AMEMBASSY LONDON 2966

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 5442

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, PDEV, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: PRETORIA FIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THE PRETORIA CONTACT GROUP MET THIS AFTERNOON TO
ASSESS THE SITUATION AND AGREED ON THE FOLLOWING JOINT
REPORT:

2. WE DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH WHETHER OR NOT THE SOUTH
AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WERE LIKELY ULTIMATELY TO DECIDE TO
REJECT A SETTLEMENT BASED ON THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S
REPORT. WE CAME TO NO FIRM CONCLUSION. WE ALSO CONSIDERED
WHETHER IT WAS ADVISABLE TO AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF A FURTHER
CABINET MEETING, WHICH WE BELIEVE TO BE PLANNED FOR TUESDAY,
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SEPTEMBER 19, AND AT WHICH VORSTER MAY BE PRESENT,
BEFORE THE NAMIBIA ISSUE IS AGAIN TAKEN IN THE SECURITY
COUNCIL.

3. WE CONCLUDED THAT WE SHOULD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
DELIVER THE MESSAGE FROM OUR FOREIGN MINISTERS AND THE
ACCOMPANYING AIDE MEMOIRE. KEEPING IN MIND SAG OBJECTIONS

TO THE SIZE OF THE UN MILITARY CONTINGENT WHICH FOURIE REITERATED TODAY TO THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR (PRETORIA 5441), WE AGREED THAT THE ONE AREA IN WHICH SOME CHANGE WOULD MOST LIKELY PRODUCE A FAVORABLE RESPONSE WOULD BE THAT COVERED BY PARAGRAPH 5 OF THE AIDE MEMOIRE. IF THE FIVE COULD PERSUADE THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO INDICATE THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF TROOPS WOULD HAVE TO BE LESS THAN THE REQUESTED FIGURE, THIS MIGHT MEET THE CABINET'S VERY STRONG FEELING THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER IS TOO LARGE. IF THE SYG COULD FURTHER INDICATE HIS INTENTION TO HAVE THE UNSR CONSULT WITH THE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL REGARDING THE NUMBERS OF TROOPS TO BE INTRODUCED AT EACH STAGE, THE SOUTH AFRICAN OBJECTIONS COULD PROBABLY BE OVERCOME.

4. WE FELT THAT THERE WOULD BE ADVANTAGE IN DELIVERING THE MESSAGE AND AIDE MEMOIRE THROUGH FOURIE, WHOM WE COULD CONSULT MORE INFORMALLY ABOUT LIKELY REACTIONS. WE THOUGHT THAT IN DOING SO WE SHOULD DRAW PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE LAST SENTENCE OF THE MESSAGE, POINTING OUT THAT THE OPTIONS WERE EITHER TO TAKE THE MATTER TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL BEFORE WE RECEIVED A FURTHER RESPONSE FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT OR TO AWAIT THAT RESPONSE BEFORE TAKING ACTION. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS SOME DANGER IN THE LATTER COURSE, SINCE DELAY MIGHT INVOLVE THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE BECOMING INVOLVED WITH THE OPENING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WE WOULD NOT
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WISH TO TAKE ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE CABINET TO MAKE A POSITIVE DECISION ON TUESDAY.
EDMONDSON

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